

## ANALYSIS OF MEASURE O

BY Robert E. Shannon, City Attorney

Voter approval of this measure would amend the Long Beach City Charter to change the dates of the primary and general municipal elections for elective officers of the City of Long Beach, which include the elected positions of Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, City Prosecutor and City Auditor, to the same dates that the State of California holds its statewide direct primary and statewide general (runoff) election, respectively. This measure does not change the dates of election for the members of the Long Beach Board of Education.

Currently, the Long Beach City Charter requires that the primary and general elections for elective officers of the City and members of the Board of Education be held in even-numbered years, on the second Tuesday in April and the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June, respectively. City and Board of Education elected candidates assume their offices on the third Tuesday in July.

The dates of the statewide direct primary and general election are set by the State legislature and are subject to change. However, currently statewide elections are held in even-numbered years. The statewide direct primary is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in June, and the statewide general election is held on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. Elected candidates assume their offices on the second Tuesday in December.

If this measure is approved, the elected City officers whose terms would have expired in July of 2014 will serve until their successors take office in December of 2014.

There will be a financial impact if this measure is approved. The exact nature of that impact will depend upon whether the County will agree to consolidate elections in June and November and administer the City's elections, placing them on the same ballot as the statewide elections. To date, the County Registrar has indicated that the

County will not consolidate elections. Whether the position of the County will change in the future and the amount the County would charge the City for consolidation is unknown. In any event, if this measure is approved, the cost to administer City/Board of Education elections in 2014 is likely to increase.

If elections are not consolidated, the City would potentially be required to administer three separate elections (April – School Board primary; June – School Board general and City primary; November – City general). While it is not possible to quantify the exact costs, it is estimated that these additional costs may exceed \$1,000,000 in 2014.

If elections are consolidated, the savings, if any, will only be realized with regard to the elections which are capable of consolidation (i.e., the June City primary and the November City general). However, additional costs will be incurred due to the fact that potentially three elections will be held, with the April (School Board) election not subject to consolidation. Again, while it is not possible to quantify the exact costs, it is estimated that these additional costs will exceed any potential savings in 2014.